

## **PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGES AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

West Lafayette, Ind. – February 19, 2007 – The City of West Lafayette has finalized a draft of its proposed “Good Neighborhood Ordinance” and is asking residents to review it and comment.

The draft of the proposed ordinance is available on the City’s website, [www.city.west-lafayette.in.us](http://www.city.west-lafayette.in.us), or may be picked up at City Hall, 609 W. Navajo, said Mayor Jan Mills.

“After reviewing our current ordinances, taking residents’ needs and requests into account and studying other communities, we’ve drafted some revisions that we believe will reflect our city’s desire to value every resident and provide quality of life for students, families, young professionals and retirees,” she said.

Provisions clarify the noise ordinance and address disorderly houses, trash pickup, yard maintenance, fees for large-scale trash pickups, smoke alarms, stone parking areas, minimum electric service and smoke detectors.

The noise ordinance asks residents to quiet down from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., keeping noise within 50 feet of its source. Current fines of \$50 to \$500 would increase to a range of \$100 to \$1,000. Disorderly houses, where unlawful behavior goes on, would not be allowed, with owners and tenants responsible. Fines range from \$250 to \$2,500 after two major offenses or three nuisance offences, with waiver if tenants are evicted. The ordinance on trash would limit pickup to three 20-gallon cans or one 96-gallon toter, with additional fees for bulk items.

Yard maintenance would require a maximum grass height of 8 inches instead of the current 10. The proposed changes also establish requirements for storage on properties, standing water and landscape overgrowth. For this section, fines would be reduced from the current \$50, \$200 and \$500, to \$35, \$100 and \$500.

Other changes stipulate that stone parking cannot be expanded, that single-family dwellings be equipped with 100-amp service, and that sleeping rooms in single-family and converted housing must have operating smoke alarms, and if found in violation, would be required to install hard-wired systems.

“We hope residents will take a look at the proposals, understand that our goal is a community that values and respects every resident, and then let us know how they feel,” Mills said.

**City of West Lafayette Good Neighbor Ordinance Draft  
Current Ordinance and Proposed Changes, February 2007**

<i><b>Item</b></i>	<i><b>Current ordinance</b></i>	<i><b>Proposed change</b></i>
<b>Noise</b>		
Time	11 p.m. to 7 a.m.	Same
Distance	Within 50 feet of source	Same
Fines	\$50 to \$500	\$100 to \$1,000
<b>Yards</b>		
Mowing	Height 10"	Height 8"
Pruning	Covers shrubbery that overhangs public ways	Addresses overgrown property areas; prohibits weeds, volunteer trees and volunteer shrubs
Storage	Rubbish prohibited	Large accumulations of items in and around property prohibited; limits storage space to 200 square feet; must be screened
Standing water	Limited to proper grading	Covers anything that can hold water and become stagnant, to prevent West Nile virus
Fines	\$50, \$200, \$500	\$35, \$100, \$500
<b>Disorderly houses</b>		
Covers	Limited provisions in rental certificate ordinance; enforcement not directed to tenants who are creating the problems	Does not allow disorderly houses, where illegal conduct occurs
Responsible	Owners (and, indirectly, tenants)	Owners and tenants
Fines	No fines; probation, suspension or revocation of the rental certificate, forcing eviction	\$250 to \$2,5000 after two major offenses or three nuisance offenses; no fine if tenants are evicted
<b>Trash</b>		
Amount	Not stipulated	Three 20-gallon cans or one 96-gallon toter
Fees	\$9 per household unit	\$9, plus additional fees for bulk rubbish
<b>Recycling</b>		
Amount	Unlimited	Unlimited

<b>Parking Areas</b>	Not stipulated	Stone parking cannot be expanded; spaces must be delineated if improper parking occurs and infringes on public ways or properties
<b>Electrical Service</b>	No minimum	100-amp minimum for single-family dwellings
<b>Smoke Detectors</b>	All units must be provided with smoke detectors, which can be battery operated	Any property where smoke alarm violations occur must install hard-wired smoke detectors